

2006 ELECTION

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For almost 40 years, I have lived and worked as an educator in Hawaii. My education experience includes being an education columnist for both daily newspapers, a consultant to the Hawaii Educational Policy Center, a teacher-consultant in the Hawaii Writing Project, and a teacher and school administrator. In addition I have served on a number of non-profit boards including the Friends of the Library and the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

To me, the crucial question is this: Despite numerous education reform efforts over the years, why haven't we seen greater change and better student achievement? When dedicated and hard working parents, teachers and principals can't bring about change, the system itself is the problem.

Restructuring the Department of Education, our largest state agency with a budget of over \$2 billion, is a crucial first step if we are to use education resources wisely to improve student achievement.

Certainly, teacher retention and recruitment, weighted student formula, adequate funding, school repair and maintenance, and charter schools are issues of importance to me. But making our education system more responsive, accountable, transparent and cost-efficient is where we must begin.

Education matters. It matters to our children who need the skills to live productive and fulfilling lives. It matters to our state because a knowledgeable work force is vital for our economic health, and it matters to me. I pledge to work full time as a Board of Education member to improve education in Hawaii.